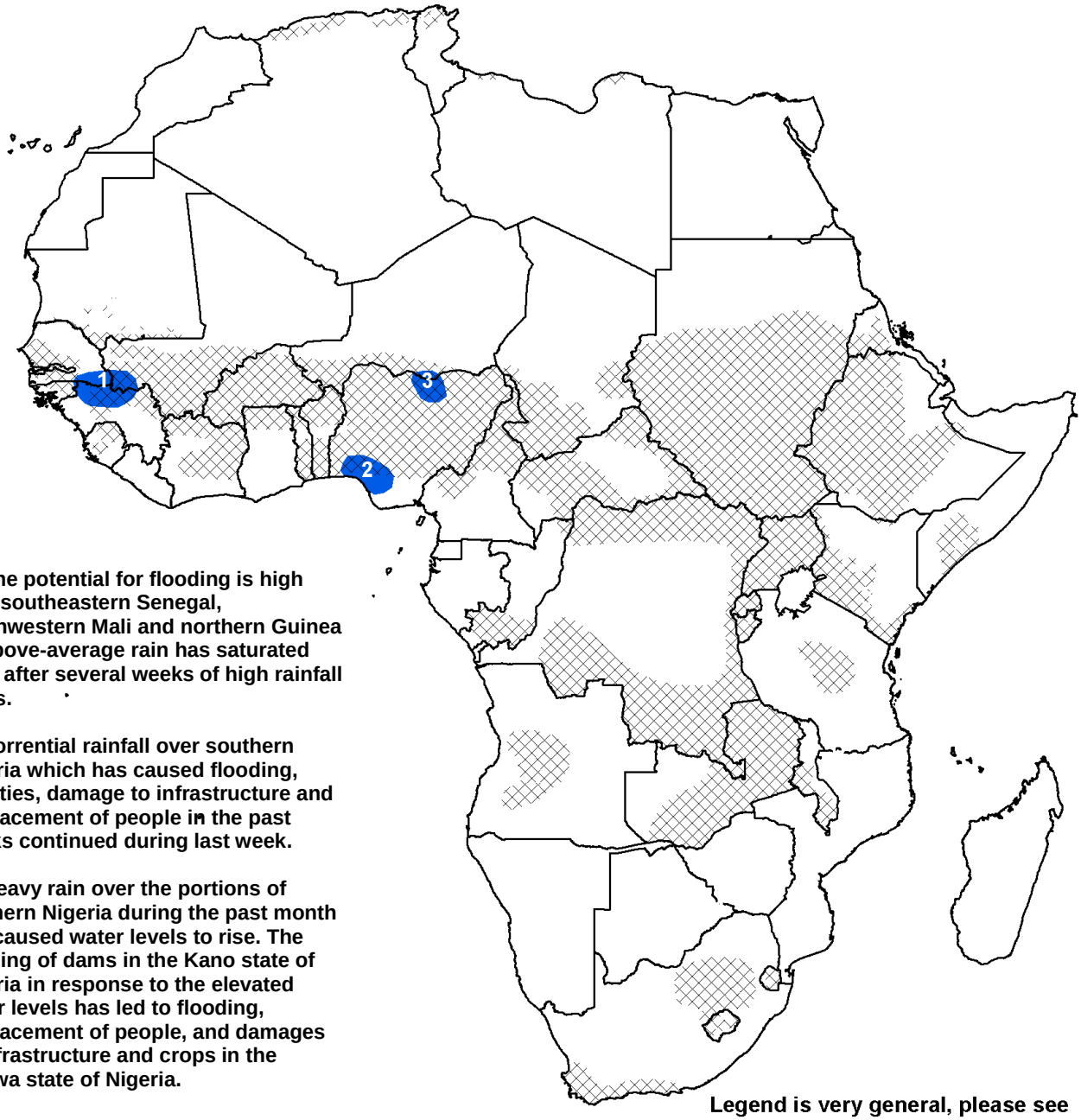
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Africa
September 30 – October 6, 2010

- **Torrential rainfall continued for a second week over southern Nigeria.**
- **Ample rainfall was observed over central Sudan and western Ethiopia while rainfall was suppressed to the north.**



1). The potential for flooding is high over southeastern Senegal, southwestern Mali and northern Guinea as above-average rain has saturated soils after several weeks of high rainfall totals.

2). Torrential rainfall over southern Nigeria which has caused flooding, fatalities, damage to infrastructure and displacement of people in the past weeks continued during last week.

3). Heavy rain over the portions of northern Nigeria during the past month has caused water levels to rise. The opening of dams in the Kano state of Nigeria in response to the elevated water levels has led to flooding, displacement of people, and damages to infrastructure and crops in the Jigawa state of Nigeria.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

- October Cropped Areas
- Favorable
- Somewhat Favorable
- Flooding
- Short-term Dryness
- Drought
- Improving Drought

Heavy rains fell over Nigeria for a second consecutive week.

For a second consecutive week, heavy rainfall (> 75 mm) was observed over Nigeria including along the Gulf of Guinea coast which saw torrential rainfall the week before. Ample rain (> 50 mm) fell over the Kaduna and Kano states of Nigeria relieving some of the rainfall deficits that had amassed during the past 30 days. The opening of dams in the Kano state due to rising water levels from several weeks of heavy rain have caused flooding, displacement of people and damages to infrastructure and crops in the Jigawa state of Nigeria. As this occurred before harvest, farmers will not be able to replant rain-fed crops. Abundant rain (> 50 mm) also fell over Senegal and Guinea which have experienced high rainfall totals for the past month. Copious amounts of rain (> 50 mm) were observed over Ghana, Togo and Benin for a second consecutive week as well. However, rainfall across the northern portion of West Africa was limited. Across northern Nigeria and a large portion of Niger, less than 10 mm of rain was observed (**Figure 1**). Over Burkina Faso and Mali, rainfall was suppressed during the past week with rainfall totals 20-30 mm less than the week before.

The heavy rains over Senegal and Guinea during the second dekad of September had increased the flood risk according to an analysis of basin excess rainfall. Coupled with another week of high rainfall totals, the flooding potential remains elevated over this area. The reduction of rainfall over Mauritania over the past week and second dekad of September has relieved the flood risk across the country (**Figure 2**).

Above-average rains are expected to be focused across southern West Africa during the next week with the heaviest rains falling across southern Nigeria, Ghana, and Cameroon. Ample rains (> 50 mm) also are forecast over Guinea and Sierra Leone. Additional rainfall over already saturated areas across southern Nigeria and Guinea could potentially lead to flooding during the next seven days.

Satellite Estimated Precipitation (mm)
Valid: September 21 – September 27, 2010

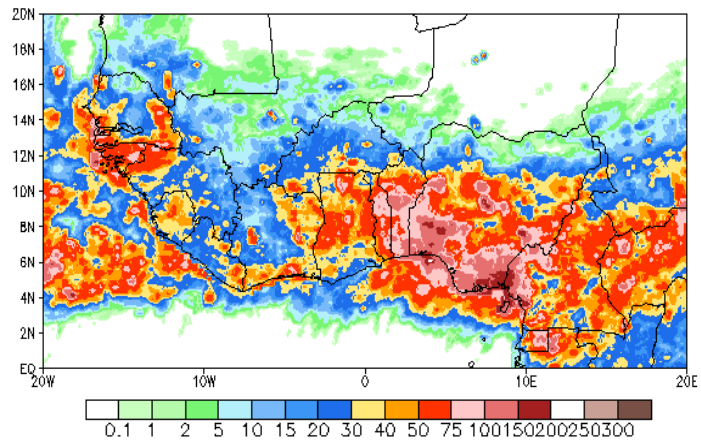


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Basin Excess Rainfall Map - Catchments
Valid: September 2010, dekad 2

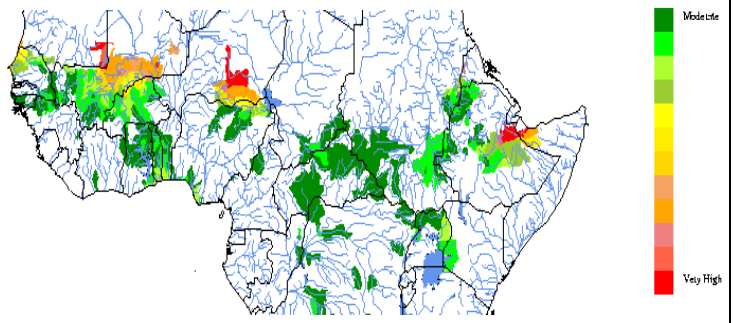


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

Localized abundant rainfall was observed over central Sudan.

Rainfall totals during the past week across central Sudan and eastern Ethiopia were high (> 50 mm). The highest precipitation totals (> 100 mm) were observed in the western Oromiya region of Ethiopia which has seen above-average precipitation for the past several weeks. Abundant rainfall (> 75 mm) also extended into the greater Nile, Kordofan and Darfur regions of Sudan. Localized areas in the Kordofan and Nile region observed greater than 100 mm of rain. The Nile region of Sudan now has observed several consecutive weeks of ample rainfall. In contrast, rainfall across northern Sudan and Ethiopia was suppressed for a second week. Less than 5 mm of rainfall was observed over the Northern Darfur and Northern Kordofan regions of Sudan. In Ethiopia, the Tigray, Afar and eastern Amhara regions experienced less than 20 mm of rainfall (**Figure 3**). The reduction in rainfall across portions of eastern Africa during the past weeks has helped reduce water levels along the Atbara, Gash and Blue, White and main Nile River.

The decline in precipitation totals during the second dekad of September has helped reduce the flooding potential across the Tigray, Amhara and Afar region of Ethiopia according to an analysis of basin excess rainfall. Persistent rains over the Nile region of Sudan have continued to the moderate flood risk in that area (**Figure 2**).

Rainfall is forecast to be moderate to light for the next week over much of eastern Africa. The highest rainfall totals (> 50 mm) are expected over the western Oromiya and Gambela region of Sudan which could continue flooding risks into next week. There is also a slight risk for tropical activity affecting the northeastern coast of Somalia during the end of the observation period.

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Valid: September 21 – September 27, 2010

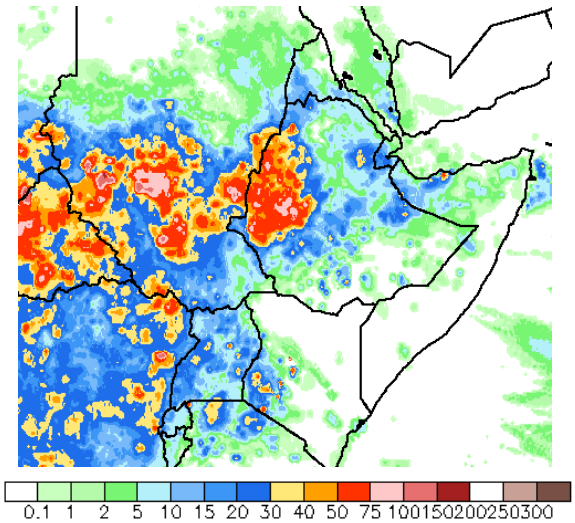

Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards assessment map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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